

Message Text

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FOLLOWING REPEAT ATHENS 2877 SENT ACTION SECSTATE ANKARA

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QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ATHENS 2877

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PLOS GR TU TGEN XG XF XI

SUBJECT: DEEP SEA DRILLING PROJECT (DSDP - LEG 42A)

OPERATIONS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

REF: A. STATE 77024; B. ANKARA 2105

1. IN LIGHT OF CURRENT ACUTE SENSITIVITY HERE OVER
AEGEAN SITUATION GENERALLY, EMBASSY CONSIDERS IT
ADVISABLE TO INFORM GOG THRU MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(WITH DEFATT SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMING HELLENIC NAVY
DIRECTLY) OF FULL SCOPE "GLOMAR CHALLENGER"
OPERATIONS IN MEDITERRANEAN AND THAT SHIP WILL PROCEED
TO BLACK SEA AT CONCLUSION OF LEG 41A. ALTHOUGH DR CLOSS
PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED MATTER WITH GREEK MIN OF INDUSTRY
OFFICIALS AND INVITED THEM TO SEND OBSERVER FOR AEGEAN
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PORTION OF DRILLING (PARA 6 OF REFTTEL A), IT POSSIBLE THAT

NO OTHER ELEMENT GOG INFORMED. WE ASSUME SCRIPPS
INSTITUTE WOULD STILL WELCOME PARTICIPATION GREEK OBSERVER
SHOULD GOG NOW DECIDE TO ACCEPT EARLIER INVITATION. IN
THIS CONNECTION, WE WILL INDICATE THAT TURKISH SCIENTIST
WILL PARTICIPATE IN BLACK SEA PORTION OF PROJECT ONLY.

2. FACT THAT DRILLING VESSEL IS IDENTIFIED AS GLOMAR
CHALLENGER COULD POSSIBLY STIMULATE PRESS SPECULATION
HERE IN VIEW INVOLVEMENT "GLOOAR EXPLORER" IN RECENTLY
PUBLICIZED CIA PROJECT TO RECOVER SUNKEN SOVIET SUBMARINE.
ANY SUCH SPECULATION LIKELY TO BE ADVERSE AND COULD BE
HEIGHTENED HERE BECAUSE SHIP WILL BE ENGAGED IN "DRILLING"
PROJECT (DESPITE FACT DRILLING UNRELATED TO SEARCH FOR
HYDROCARBONS). IN VIEW OF THIS, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED
TO RESPOND TO POSSIBLE PRESS INQUIRIES ABOUT ANY POSSIBLE
CONNECTION BETWEEN GLOMAR CHALLENGER AND GLOMAR
EXPLORER.

3. REQUEST DEPT FORWARD TWO SETS PHOTOGRAPHS
"GLOOAR CHALLENGER" TO AID HELLENIC NAVY IN IDENTIFICATION
AND RECOGNITION OF VESSEL. SUCH FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE OUR
PART SHOULD AID IN ALLEVIATING ANY SUSPICIONS CREATED BY
POSSIBLE ADVERSE PUBLICITY GENERATED BYLOCAL PRESS.
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TAGS: PLOS, TGEN, GR, TU, XG, XF, XI
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